

The Leading Edge

Summer Edition 2007

Delta Gamma Chapter
of Sigma Theta Tau International
at Marquette University

Editor: Mary J. Polchert, RN, PhD

Chiron Mentoring Program

Mentoring in nursing is essential to the development of individual nurses and the profession. I speak from personal experience. I participated in the Chiron Mentoring Program through Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. The basic goal of the Chiron Program is to teach participants how to network with other professionals in their areas of interest and to develop leadership skills. Development of these leadership skills will hopefully promote participants to move into leadership positions and advance the field of nursing. Mentors are typically experts in the area of interest of the Mentee, or are simply strong leaders in the profession. Mentees may be at the beginning of their career or seasoned professionals. No matter what stage of their career, participants of the Chiron program hold the common goal of wishing to advance professionally and personally. Mentoring offers nurses a new way to view professional practice, helps individuals get professionally involved, and ultimately aims to balance knowledge with experience so that nurses can be leaders that prompt change in healthcare delivery.

I am early in my career. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 2004. I am a member of the Beta-Eta-At Large Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. My first experience with mentoring was in my undergraduate program, thanks to Barb Bowers. I did not realize during my undergraduate years that Barb acted as a mentor. Since graduation, however, her involvement in my professional development is apparent. Barb introduced me to the healthcare system outside of clinical applications. Imagine nursing being more than bedside care! This introduction taught me that nursing involves research, policy, and determination. She taught me that some of the best care practices are developed away from the bedside.

My experience with those three things comes in the form of participation on the Wisconsin Nurses' Association Public Policy Council and the Chiron Mentoring program. The opportunity to get a system view of healthcare during my last semester of undergraduate study prompted my interest in policy as it relates to the healthcare system. The last three years of clinical practice further prompts my interest in policy related to nursing. So, when the opportunity to be part of the

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Delta Gamma Outstanding Nurse Scholar named to ACE Fellows Program

The American Council on Education (ACE) has selected Dr. Janet W. Krejci, associate dean of the undergraduate program, Marquette University College of Nursing, as one of 39 college and university faculty and administrators to participate in the 2007-08 ACE Fellows Program.

The ACE Fellows Program focuses on identifying and preparing senior leadership for the nation's colleges and universities. The program combines seminars, interactive learning opportunities, campus events, and placement at another higher education institution to condense years of on-the-job experience and skills development into a single semester or year.

Janet Krejci, RN, PhD, CNAA is an active member of Delta Gamma, a former Board member, Chapter Research award recipient, and was recognized at last October's Hall of Fame program, as the 2006 Outstanding Nurse Scholar.

**FUTURE
NEWSLETTER
WILL BE MAILED
VIA ELECTRONIC
DELIVERY**

In the future, the Leading Edge will be available on-line via the website or via email as a cost saving measure.

Printed newsletters will be mailed only by request.

The web page for Delta Gamma Chapter at Marquette University is updated and will be more useful to keep in touch with Chapter activities. Please view the web page at: <http://www.marquette.edu/deltagamma/> You will be able to see who the Executive Board Members are, find their contact information, and the schedule of meetings for the year. Please look at the website.

***Members must also contact STTI for changes in address.**

Delta Gamma Chapter Fall Program October 11, 2007

You are cordially invited to a program focusing on nurse-managed health care. Tour one of the newest nursing centers in the area, providing quality health care services to vulnerable populations.

The Marquette Neighborhood Health Center opened in April 2007. Operated by Marquette University College of Nursing, this advanced practice nurse-managed center offers primary care services within a nursing model, emphasizing health promotion and preventative care.

WHEN: Thursday, October 11

Networking & refreshments: 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Tour (optional): 5:45 pm – 6:00 pm

Speaker/Q&A: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Margaret Ann “Marty” Berner, MSN, CNM, APNP
– Nurse Manager

WHERE: Marquette Neighborhood Health Center
1834 W. Wisconsin Ave.
(NE corner of 19th & Wisconsin)

The program will be held in the downstairs classroom, and is accessible only via stairs

PARKING: Meter and free parking available along both sides of Wisconsin Avenue, or on the West side of 19th Street. Structure at 16th & Wisconsin; park on west side, near 17th for a short walk to the Center.

The MU Department of Public Safety is staffed 24/7 and provides a safe environment throughout the campus. The MU Escort Service is available to guests who would like to be escorted around the campus in the evening.

Seating at the program is limited to about 30.

Registration required via email to Jacque Nook - jnook@wi.rr.com or phone: 414-453-0081.
Please leave a callback phone number.

Please bring a new or gently used children's book. NO other fee will be charged for the program.

Visit the website for complete information!
<http://www.marquette.edu/deltagamma/>

Marquette University Faculty Scholarly Contributions

Fehring RJ, Schneider M, Raviele K. Efficacy of hormonal fertility monitoring as a method of natural family planning. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, & Neonatal Nursing*. Available Online February 27, 2007.

Ohlendorf J, **Fehring RJ**. (Accepted for publication – January, 2007). The influence of religiosity on contraceptive use among US Catholic women. *The Linacre Quarterly*.

Fehring, R. Natural family planning has broad scientific base. But more needs to be done. *Family Foundations*, July, August, 2006, 14, 16, 25.

Fehring RJ, Schneider M, Raviele K. Variability in the phases of the menstrual cycle. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, & Neonatal Nursing*, 35(3):376-384.

Fehring RJ. Attitudes, Intentions, and Ethical Stance of Advanced Practice Nursing Students toward Abortion Provision: Part One Quantitative Findings. *Life & Learning XV*, Fordham University Press, 2006:131-150.

Fehring RJ. Current Medical Research. A supplement of NFP Forum, (Summer/Fall) 2006;16 (3&4):1-16.

Fehring, R., Current Medical Research. A supplement of NFP Forum, (Winter/Spring) 2006;16 (1&2):1-16.

Doorenbos, A., **Wilson, S.A.**, & Coenen, A. (2006). A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Dignified Dying. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 38 (4), 352-357.

Wilson, S.A., Coenen, A., & Doorenbos, A. (2006). Dignified dying as a nursing phenomena in the United States. *Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing*, (8), 34-41.

Doorenbos, A., **Wilson, S.A.**, Coenen, A., & Borse, N.N. (2006). Dignified dying: Phenomenon and Actions among nurses in India. *International Nursing Review*, (53), 28-33.

Wilson, S.A. (2007). Core Curriculum for the Advanced Practice Hospice and Palliative Nurse. In M.J. Perley & C. Dahlin (Eds.) *Core Curriculum for the Advanced Practice Hospice and Palliative Nurse*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company.

Wilson, S.A., Ersek, M. & Kraybill, B. (2006). Cultural issues. In Panke, J. T. & Coyne, P. *Conversations in Palliative Care*. (pp. 33-46). Pittsburgh, PA: Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association.

Wilson, S.A. (2006). Long-term care. In B. Ferrell & N. Coyle (Eds.). *Textbook of Palliative Nursing 2nd Edition*. (pp. 759-769). New York: Oxford University Press.

Miller, J.F. (2007). Hope: A concept central to nursing. *Nursing Forum*, 42 (1), 12-19.

Dreher, M. & **Miller, J.F.** (2006). The clinical nurse leader's use if healthcare informatics for the 21st Century: An International Look at Trends, Cases and the Future. Chicago: Healthcare Information Management Society, 29 - 34.

Appointed to the Editorial Board: *Journal of Nursing and Healthcare of Chronic Illness*. Blackwell Publishing, 2006 - present. **Miller, J.F.**

Research

“Coping Difficulties after Hospitalization” with Marianne Weiss, Associate Professor, Marquette University College of Nursing and Linda Piacentine, PhD student, Marquette University College of Nursing.

Havice, M, Malin, M., Schweizer, H, **Frenn, M.** (In press) Engaging Students Through Collaboration: How Project FUN Works. *Perspectives on Nursing Education*.

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WNA public policy council arose, I took it. To say the least, I was intimidated by this council. The other members have a lot more experience in policy and nursing. I truly felt I did not have much to offer this esteemed group of individuals. However, each of them has acted as a mentor to me by reassuring me of the value of staff nurse input in the policy process. Staff nurses give input based on direct observation and experience of our healthcare system and input is essential to the development and enactment of effective policy. Policy may be specific to an organization, or policy may be a new bill on a state or federal level. Going to work took on new meaning when I began to think of my practice as a piece of a larger system – a system that must balance many factors to run smoothly.

The Chiron Mentoring program afforded me the opportunity to develop my understanding of the profession as part of a larger system, by placing me with a mentor, through a leadership development conference, and through on-going discussion and support with other mentees and mentors via email or conference call. The leadership conference reinforced that I have value as a staff nurse. Trust me, when the other participants are tenure-tracked professionals it crosses your mind that you are not in the right place! However, the leaders of Sigma Theta Tau, and the other participants offered abundant reassurance and responded to my involvement with eager anticipation. I imagine their eagerness to help stems from the truth that people early in their careers are the leaders of the future. This conference and the Chiron program opened many doors to networking opportunities. And it was these opportunities that allowed me to pursue learning about my topics of interest – nurse fatigue and public policy.

My project involved literature reviews, interviews with experts in my areas of interest, and a presentation to a group of senior nursing students. Despite my thinking that the final result of my work would consist of an elaborate research project, or even a scholarly journal article, it has not. The final result consists of something much more valuable. Development of professional communication skills that present myself as a future leader, the opportunity to network with current leaders in the profession in areas of interest, and perhaps the most valuable result is the realization that nurses are and can be

significant change agents.

I am blessed to have an exceptional mentor, Maureen Greene. She continues to teach me new ways of becoming a leader in this profession, and continues to encourage my professional and personal growth by presenting new and challenging opportunities. She and others I've met through my experiences personify the challenge our profession has faced to be recognized as indispensable assets of the healthcare system. Continuous mentoring is essential to the future of our profession. I challenge each of us to look at our profession with renewed curiousness and openness to all the opportunities to be positive change agents and seek opportunities to be in a mentoring relationship with another health professional.

by Kelly Penza

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Delta Gamma Chapter Strategic Plan Worksheet

| <i>Strategic Area from STTI:</i> | <i>Goal</i> | <i>Action</i> | <i>Who can help?</i> | <i>Outcome</i> |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Knowledge | 1. Identify one health issue pertinent to the DG community annually 2. Recognize members scholarly contributions | Implement chapter programs in the identified issue. Website/newsletter as communication among members. | DG Board and Committed program chair of 4 area chapters. Liaison in each major agency with member of DG | Augmentation of knowledge building in the DG community. Evidence generation regarding nursing influence on health care. |
| Leadership | Identify and develop nurse leaders in the community. | Expand and develop members for leadership roles. | Leadership succession chair and all members | Enhanced chapter and community leadership |
| Service | Develop social and professional networks to respond to health care needs. | Partner with the MU Neighborhood Health Center. | All members through task force | Increase public trust in nursing as evidenced by partnership |
| Community | A culturally responsive model in health care issues. | Identify community networks and global potential. | All members using theme of "each one reach one" | Greater development and support of creative nursing actions that transform the health of the community. |
| Sustainability | Sound chapter investment for the future. | Interview and assess financial counselors/ institutions/organizations for investment opportunities. | M.U. as a sponsoring Institution. DG Board and Treasurer | A committed board Positions filled Funds maintained to sustain chapter activities. |